Pol 14 VIET S

Department of State TELEGRAM

(813)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Saigon 3447 8-18-67

PAGE 01 SAIGON 03447 01 OF 02 181505Z

8-18-67

43
ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,SAH 02,
SAL 01,AID 30,RSR 01,SP 02,SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,L 03,
H 02,INR 07,P 04,IO 21,SPEC 01,/148 W

P R 181130Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4837
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3824
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2190

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izuberg DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 3447

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: REPORT ON GIA DINH CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE AUGUST 18

1. AUGUST 18 GIA DINH PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN MEETING ORGANIZED IN PARKING LOTOF TOMB OF VIETNAMESE NATIONAL HERO LE VAN DUYET WITH CROWD OF ABOUT 1,500. NEITHER THIEU NOR KY WERE PRESENT. THIEU/KY REPRESENTATIVE, GIA DINH CA DEPUTY NGUYEN VAN THAN, APOLOGIZED FOR THEIR ABSENCE, SAYING THEY WERE BUSY WITH OFFICIAL

(1)

DUTIES ELSEWHERE. HE PROMISED THE CROWD THAT THIEU AND KY WOULD ORGANIZE A MEETING TO MEET THE VOTERS OF GIA DINH "SOON."

2. HOANG CO DINH AND HIS RUNNING MATE KHANH ALSO

MICROFILMED BY [illegible]

Department of State TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAIGON 03447 01 OF 02 181505Z

FAILED TO APPEAR DINH RESPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCED THAT BINH PLANS TO SCHEDULE ANOTHER CAMPAIGN MEETIG IN A GIA DINH THEATER (BINHAS HAD AT LEAST TWO SUCH MEETINGS IN THE SAIGON AREA).

3. ARRANGEMENTS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY EXCEPT FOR MICROPHONE WHICH FAILED TO FUNCTION PROPERLY FOR A TIME, HAMPERING CROWDS ABILITY TO HEAR SUU/DAN AND TROUNG DINH DAU PRESENTATIONS. DAU BECAME INCENSED AT MIKE TROUBLE AND UNRULINESS OF CROWD AND STARTED TO WALK OFF PLATFORM, COMPLAINING OF "SABOTAGE," AT WHICH POINT MIKE CAME BACK ON LOUD AND CLEAR.

4. FOUR OF SLATES DISCUSSED MATTER OF PRESSURE ON VOTERS BY GVN. PHAN KHAC SUU AND PHAN QUANG DAN BOTH TOUCHED ON SUBJECT IN RELATIVELY LOW KEY. DAN WAS INTERRUPTED WITH APPLAUSE SIX TIMES AND SUU/DUN TICKET RECEIVED WARMEST APPLAUSE ON CONCLUSION OF THEIR PRESENTATION.

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 3447/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
5. SUU TOLD CROWD, BY THEN ABOUT 2000, OF THIS CONTINUING "REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE." HE SAID THAT HE WASN'T AFRAID OF ANY THREATS AND ASKED VOTERS TO BE RESOLUTE, TO CHOOSE CAREFULLY A NEW ROAD FOR THE NATIONN ONE WHICH COULD BRING PEACE. WHAT HAS THE"GOVERNMENT OF THE POOR" DONE, SUU ASKED, AND ANSWERED THAT IT HAD ONLY MADE "HOLLOW PROMISES." DUN FOLLOWED WITH WITTY, SLASHINGATTACK ON CORRUPTION AND THE WAGE-PRICE SQUEEZE, WHICH DREW APPROVING REACTION FROM HOME TOWN ADUDIENCE. EXPOSITION OF SLATE'S LAND REFORM PLANK DREW LITTLE RESPONSE, HOWEVER, ON CORRUPTION, DAN NOTED THAT THERE ARE TWO KINDS -- ORDINARY NICKEL AND DIME CORRUPTION, WHICH IS NECESSARY IF POLICE AND CIVIL SERVANTS ARE TO HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO LIVE ON. THERE IS ALSO THE KIND OF CORRUPTION WHICH IS ALLOWING THE RICH TO GET RICHER. ONLY BY DOING SOMETHING ABOUT THE LATTER SORT, DAN SAID, COULD PROGRESS BE MADE IN STAMPING OUT THIS "SOCIAL EVIL". TURNING TO THE WAGE PRICE SQUEEZE, DAN REGRETTED THAT EVERY TIME SALRIES OF CIVIL SERVANTS AND SOLDIERS ARE RASIED A LITTLE, PRICES GO UP A LOT. HE ALSO DEPLORED MISUSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

CONFIDENTIAL

Department of State TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SAIGON 03447 01 OF 02 181505Z

OF US AID. AS IN BIEN HOA, DAN PROMISED COMPREHENSIVE

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 3447/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO REMEDY SITUATION.

6. AFTER MIKE RETURNED TO LIFE, DAU LAUNCHED VIGOROUS ATTACK ON GOVERNMENT, DISCARDING "PEACE" SCRIPT THAT HE HAD APPARENTLY INTENDED TO USE. HE SUGGESTED THAT GIA DINH PROVINCE AUTHORITIES DELIBERATELY TRYING TO SABOTAGE CIVILIAN CANDIDATES; HENCE, POOR TUNROUT OF TWO THOUSAND IN PROVINCE WITH FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND VOTERS. DAU NOTED THAT BIEN HOA AND QUI NHOU HAD DONE MUCH BETTER, AND HE DECLARED THAT SINCE THIEU AND KY HAD ALL THE "RESOURCES," IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR OPPOSITION SLATE TO WIN. AT THIS POINT EXCITED CROWD SETTLED DOWN TO DEVOTE FULL ATTENTION TO DAU.

DAU CLAIMED THAT THIEU AND KY'S RECENT TALKS OF "PEACE" AND "DEMOCRACY" ONLY COPYING OTHER CANDIDATES; THEY IN FACT HAVE NO PLAN OR PROGRAM TO BRING ABOUT EITHER. "EMOCRACY," DAU SAID, "IS NOT A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP, BUT IMPARTIAL CAMPAINGING AND WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT OPPOSITION." HE COMPLAINED THAT GVN RESOURCES BEING USED TO "UNDERMINE" CIVILIAN LISTS, WHICH CONVERSELY WERE DOING BEST TO CAMPAIGN DEMOCRATICALLY. AS

PAGE 5 RUMJIR 3447/1 C O N F I D E N T PBA L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
EXAMPLES, DAU CITED MILITARY LISTS FAILURE TO COMPAIGN WITH OTHERS, FAIRLURE TO RESIGN OFFICE, POLICE HARASSMENT OF OPPOSITION SYMPATHIZERS, ORGANIZATION OF YOUTH AND SPORTS FESTIVALS RECENTLY IN SAIGON AND CORPS AREAS, "GOVERNMENT OF THE POOR" SLOGAN. DAU SAID THE SLOGAN SHOULD IN FACT B "A GOVERNMENT WHICH MAKES THE PEOPLE VERY POOR", ALLUDING TO INFLATION, AND WON STORMY APPLAUSE. THE REGIME, DAU NOTED, AD "DONE NOTHING" IN TWO YEARS, SO WHAT COULD THE PEOPLE EXPECT OF THIEU AND KY IN THE NEXT FOUR? ON ELECTION DAY, HE FINISHED, THE PEOPLE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 SAIGON 03447 01 OF 02 181505Z

"MUST PEACEFULLYOVERTHROWTHIS DICTATORSHIP." DAU'S SOMEWHAT EXCITED PRESENTATION HELD ATTENTION OF CROWD THROUGHOUT, BUT REACTION WAS NOT ENTIRELY POSITIVE AND CONCLUDING APPLAUSE DID NOT EQUAL THAT GIVEN SUU-DAN AND HUONG-TRUYEN. SOME SPECULATION HEARD IN AUDIENCE THAT DISTRUBANCE AT BEGINNING DAU'S SPEECH MAY HAVE BEEN ENGINEERED BY DAU WORKERS TO GIVE CANDIDATES A SPRINGBOARD FOR HIS ATTACK.

7. AFTER FAILING TO APPEAR IN QUI NHON AUGUST 17 BECAUSE OF A COLD, HUONG WAS IN APPARENT GOOD HEALTH AT

PAGE 6 RUMJIR 3447/1 C O N F I D EN T I A L LIMITED OFFFICIAL USE
GIA DINH MEETING. HUONG'S FIVE MINUTE SPEECH WAS ON SUBJECT "WHAT KIND OF GOVERNMENT CAN PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE?" HE CONRASTED PRESENT REGIME UNFAVORABLY WITH GOVERNMENT IN WAR RAVAGED JAPAN THAT HE VISITED TWENTY YEARS AGO. HUONG RUNNING MADE TRUYEN DECLARED THAT IF REAL DEMOCRACY IS DESIRED, PEOPLE IN HAMLETS AS WELL AS IN CITIES MUST BE GIVEN THE MEANS TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST INJUSTICE. THE PEOPLE SHOUDL VOTE, TRUYEN URGED, NOT FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE POWER FOR ITS OWN SAKE BUT FOR THOSE WHOSE ONLY WISH IS TO SERVE PEOPLE AND NATION. UNFRIENDLY QUESTIONER ASKED HUONG IF HE "WOULD OPPRESS THE BUDDHISTS AGAINS" IF HE WERE PRESIDENT AND ASKED TRUYEN IF HE KNEW "WHAT HIS REPUTATION WITH THE BUDDHISTS IS NOW?" HUONG ANSWERED THAT PRESI-DENT MUST WORK FOR WHOLE NATION. IF IN EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION, ONLY WAY TO SAVE NATION IS TO OPPOSE A SMALL GROUP THAT IS "BEING USED" TO DESTORY NATION, THEN IT MUST BE DONE. TRUYEN REPLIED THAT HIS REPUTATION WAS GROWING DAILY; HE WAS NOT ONE OF THOSE WHO WAS DES-TROYING INNER UNITY OF BUDDHISTS AND DESTROYING REPUTATION OF BUDDHISM. HUONG AND TRUYEN GIVEN GOOD HAND WHEN CUT OFF BY BELL.
BUNKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAIGON 03447 02 OF 02 181447Z

3
ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,SP 02,
SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,IO 21,AID 30,SAH 02,SAL 01,
PSR 01,INR 07,P 04,L 03,H 02,/142 W

P R 181130Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4838
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3825
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 748
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2191

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 3447

8. HA THUC KY AND NGUYEN VAN DINH'S APPROACH SIMILAR TO PRESENTATION IN BINE HOA AND QUI NHON, A SHORT STATEMENT OF PLATFORM AND EXTENDED QUESTION PERIOD. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY ABOUT HIS PEACE PLAN, KY ANSWERED THAT SAIGON GOVERNMENT MUST MEET DIRECTLY WITH HANOI, WHICH SO FAR HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION TAT IT WANTS PEACE. KY DISMISSED NLF AS HANOI PUPPET. HE DECLARED THAT THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT SHOULD GET THE IDEAS OF "THE US MILITARY AUTHORITIES," AND MUST BE "REALLY STRONG" IN ORDER TO MAKE HONORABLE PEACE. ANSWEREING QUESTION "WHY DON'T YOU CALL FOR THE THIEU-KY GOVERNMENT TO BE THROWN OUT?", KY STATED THAT HE WAS NOT AFRAID OF REGIMES WRATH, BUT SAW NO POINT IN BELABORING THE OBVIOUS. DINH TOLD A THIRD QUESTIONER THAT "THE STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE" WOULD PREVENT KY-DINH, IF ELECTED, FROM BEING OVERTHROWN.

9. REMAINING CANDIDATES ADDED LITTLE THAT WAS NEW AND DREW GENRALLY APATHETIC RESPONSE. NGUYEN HOA HIEP, WHO TALKED ABOUT HO CHI MINH'S MI[illegible]DERSTADING OF THE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAIGON 03447 02 OF 02 181447Z

SITUATION AND INFLUENCE OF RED CHINA IN NORTH VIETNAM, SOUND TOO FAR FROM THE MICROPHONE AND COULD NOT BE HEARD BY NINETY PERCENT OF CROWD. DURING DAU SPEECH, ONE MAN IN CROWD WHO SHOUTED "DOWN WITH THE REGIME" WAS INVITED OUTSIDE AND APPARENTLY LECTURED BY NEARBY ARVN SERGEANT. ABOUT SIXTY NATIONAL POLICMEN AND FORTY MILITARY POLICEMEN PROVIDED SECURITY FOR MEETING; NATIONAL POLICE OFFICER IN CHARGE AID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO INCIDENTS WORTH NOTING. BUNKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED